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SENATE BILL 2429

By Haun

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, relative to the use of low-speed vehicles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-1-103(3), is amended by deleting the first sentence in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

“Motor vehicle” means every vehicle that is self-propelled, excluding motorized bicycles and every vehicle that is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires. “Motor vehicle” means any low-speed vehicle as defined in this section.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

Section 55-1-122. “Low-speed vehicle” means any four-wheeled electric vehicle, excluding golf-carts, whose top speed is greater than twenty miles per hour (20 mph) but not greater than twenty-five miles per hour (25 mph), including neighborhood electric vehicles. Low-speed vehicles must comply with the standards in 49 CFR 571.500.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

Section 55-1-123. "Golf-cart" means a motor vehicle that is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of twenty miles per hour (20 mph).

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-111(a), is amended by adding the following:

CLASS F -- "Low-speed vehicles" registration fee. \$9.50

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-8-101(30), is amended by adding the punctuation and language ", including a low-speed vehicle as defined in this section" between the language "every vehicle" and "which is".

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-8-101, is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision (27) and redesignating the remaining subdivisions accordingly:

(27) "Low-speed vehicle" means any four-wheeled electric vehicle, excluding golf-carts, whose top speed is greater than twenty miles per hour (20 mph) but not greater than twenty-five miles per hour (25 mph), including neighborhood vehicles. Low-speed vehicles must comply with the safety standards in 49 CFR 571.500;

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 8, is amended by adding the following as new sections thereto:

Section 55-8-191. A low-speed vehicle as defined in Section 55-8-101 may be operated only on streets where the posted speed limit is thirty-five miles per hour (35 mph) or less. This does not prohibit a low-speed vehicle from crossing a road or street at an intersection where the road or street has a posted speed limit of more than thirty-five miles per hour (35 mph).

(1) A county or municipality may prohibit the operation of low-speed vehicles on any road under its jurisdiction if the governing body of the county or

municipality determines that such prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

(2) The department of transportation may prohibit the operation of low-speed vehicles on any road under its jurisdiction if it determines that such prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

Section 55-8-192. Any person operating a low-speed vehicle must have in his or her possession a valid class D driver license.

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-50-102 is amended by adding the following as a new item (30) and by redesignating the remaining items accordingly:

(30) "Low-speed vehicle" means any four-wheeled electric vehicle whose top speed is greater than twenty miles per hour (20 mph) but not greater than twenty-five miles per hour (25 mph), including neighborhood vehicles. Low-speed vehicles must comply with the safety standards in 49 CFR 571.500;

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-50-102(35), is amended by adding the language "low-speed vehicle as defined in this section," between the language and punctuation "means a vehicle," and the language "machine".

SECTION 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002, the public welfare requiring it.